



# Religious Education



**Eliot Unitarian Chapel**

# Greetings for a New Year!



Rev. Barbara Gadon  
Lead Minister

*And so the children come...* Sophia Lyon Fahs

I am thrilled to see the children come forward each week for the time for all ages in worship. When I ask them questions, they are by turns thoughtful, funny, deep and silly - sometimes all at once! I am honored to be their minister. I am also thrilled to be getting to know our older children, through visits to the youth group and Sunday school classrooms. Your children share their gifts in intergenerational worship and all over the church in service - they enrich us all. I look forward to getting to know you better this year, and to learn together how to live lives of greater meaning and service.

In Faith,

Rev. Barbara H. Gadon  
Lead Minister



## Keep In Touch ....

Scott Stewart, Director of Religious Education

Phone: 314-821-0911, ext. 105

Email: [scott@eliotchapel.org](mailto:scott@eliotchapel.org)

Christie Lee, Assistant Director of Religious Education

Phone: 314-821-0911, ext. 205

Email: [christie@eliotchapel.org](mailto:christie@eliotchapel.org)

Subscribe to our electronic church publications to receive "This Week at Eliot," the Eliot Chapel Religious Education Report email, and the monthly Eliot Chapel *Greenleaves* newsletter. Contact: [news@eliotchapel.org](mailto:news@eliotchapel.org) to be added to the list.



On Facebook:  
[@Eliot Chapel Religious Education](#)



# Welcome to Eliot Chapel Religious Education

Welcome to the Religious Education (RE) program for children and youth at Eliot Unitarian Chapel. The program provides opportunities for children and youth to explore Unitarian Universalist heritage, identity, common values, a variety of religious traditions, and individual faith journeys in a liberal religious community. We are delighted that your spiritual journey has brought you here.



Scott Stewart,  
Director of Religious Education



Christie Lee,  
Assistant Director of Religious Education



*Eliot Unitarian Chapel Mission:  
Bound by courageous love,  
growing in spirit,  
and inspiring compassionate action.*



## Eliot Chapel Staff

Rev. Barbara Gadon, Lead Minister

Rev. Jim Crawford, Minister of Pastoral Care

Scott Stewart, Director of Religious Education

Christie Lee, Assistant Director of Religious Education

Jan Chamberlin, Music Director

Dr. Leon Burke III, Choir Director

Camille Novak, Administrator

Communications Specialist

Mecy Stanfield, Administrative Assistant

Myron Simms, Facilities Assistant

[bgadon@eliotchapel.org](mailto:bgadon@eliotchapel.org)

[jcrawford@eliotchapel.org](mailto:jcrawford@eliotchapel.org)

[scott@eliotchapel.org](mailto:scott@eliotchapel.org)

[christie@eliotchapel.org](mailto:christie@eliotchapel.org)

[music@eliotchapel.org](mailto:music@eliotchapel.org)

[choir@eliotchapel.org](mailto:choir@eliotchapel.org)

[admin@eliotchapel.org](mailto:admin@eliotchapel.org)

[news@eliotchapel.org](mailto:news@eliotchapel.org)

[frontoffice@eliotchapel.org](mailto:frontoffice@eliotchapel.org)

[facilities@eliotchapel.org](mailto:facilities@eliotchapel.org)

# Young Children's Program



## Nursery

*At 9:30 for children age two and under as of August 1, 2017*

*At 11:00, for children age three and under as of August 1, 2017*

For the youngest members, loving care is provided by nursery caregivers during all worship services. The nursery is full of books, puzzles, toys, and fun activities for babies and toddlers each Sunday. The nursery is staffed by LaTosha Crayton and Tim Bubb, with support from Eliot volunteers.

Beginning September 10, 2017, the nursery is open each Sunday from 9:00 am until 12:15 pm. Summer nursery hours are 9:30 to 11:15 am.

## Preschool & Kindergarten

*Ages three to five by August 1, 2017*

Classes for preschool and

kindergarten provide young children with an introduction to their religious community and UU faith traditions. Classes are led by volunteer teachers and include age-appropriate stories, activities, free play, and lessons from Unitarian Universalist curricula. Classes are offered during the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services beginning September 10. (Note that specific age grouping vary depending on which service one attends.)



## Elementary

*1<sup>st</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> grade as of August 1, 2017*

Elementary children spend the year using age-appropriate curriculum and resources to explore topics related to Unitarian Universalist (UU) identity, liberal religious values, and faith traditions around the world. Classes are led by volunteer teachers and are offered during the 9:30 and 11:00 am worship services beginning September 10.



## Children's Worship

*Beginning September 10, elementary aged children will attend the first 15 minutes of the worship service with their families before attending RE classes. Throughout the year, there are also a variety of special worship services for children, youth, and adults of all ages.*

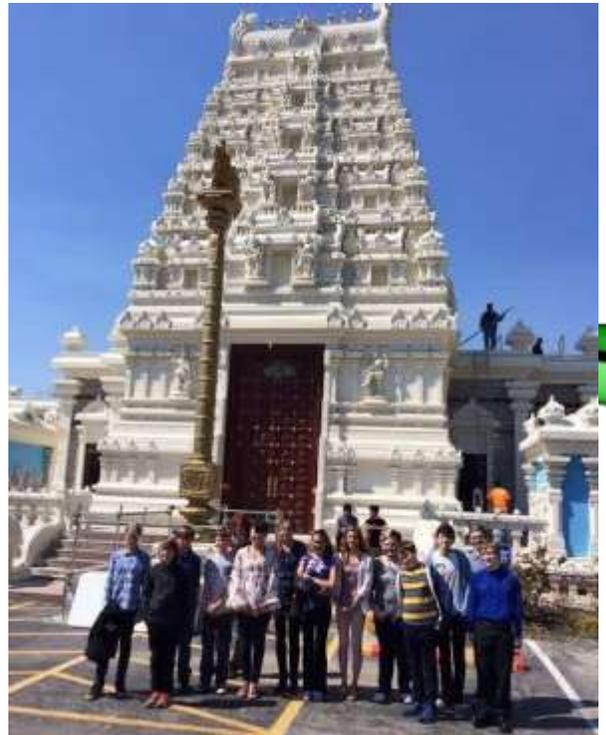
*Note: At 9:30, children in kindergarten and older attend the first 15 minutes of the service. At 11:00, children in K - 6th grade attend the first 15 minutes of the service.*



# Youth Groups

## Junior High

Beginning September 10, the Junior High Youth Group meets most Sundays during the 11:00 service and is open to youth in 7th and 8th grade (or homeschool equivalent). During the junior high years, youth explore a variety of religious traditions through the Unitarian Universalist curriculum *Building Bridges*, which is offered every other year. In addition, topics and activities related to UU history, identity, and liberal religious values are also explored. The majority of youth also participate in the *Our Whole Lives* (OWL) sexuality education curricula, which is offered every two years.



*Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive sexuality education program developed jointly by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ. OWL includes age-appropriate curricula for six different age groups and is designed to educate participants and equip them to make healthy and responsible choices with regard to their relationships, sexual health, and behavior.*

*During the 2017 -18 year, it's anticipated that OWL will be offered to Kindergarten and 1st grade children in early 2018.*

*\*Please note that due to the nature and content of the OWL program, participation is strictly limited to registered and participating youth in the Religious Education program, or youth whose parents are pledging church members.*



## Senior High

High school youth (grades 9-12) are a treasured part of the Eliot Chapel community. The Senior High Youth Group meets most Sundays from September-May, usually from 10:45 am to 12:00 pm, though some sessions meet for longer periods of time, or at different times.

The 2017-2018 Senior High Youth Group begins on August 20. Youth group experiences include, but aren't limited to, some of the following activities, which seek to incorporate the different components of *Six Pillars of Balanced Youth Ministry*:

- Leading a Sunday worship service
- Engaging in dialogue and activities related to spiritual and religious topics
- Participating in overnight lock-ins and regional youth events, such as Youth Conferences (CONs)
- Volunteer service in other Eliot Chapel programs
- Community-building activities



# Family Roles and Expectations

## Registration

Families joining us in the Religious Education program for the first time are asked to fill out a Guest Form to help us provide the best possible classroom experience to your children or youth. Families may visit three times before officially registering their children and youth in the program.

Registration is completed electronically and only takes a few minutes of your time.

## Attendance & Commitment

**Regular church attendance and family commitment is essential to a child's or youth's Religious Education experience.** Regular attendance best enables children, youth, and families to develop a meaningful sense of religious community and helps program staff and volunteers plan meaningful classroom activities and experiences. It is the expectation that families who register for the 2017-18 Religious Education program will make the commitment to attend church and participate regularly throughout the church year (September through May).

## Pledging & Financial Support

The Religious Education program is wholly supported by and dependent on the generous financial **contributions of Eliot Chapel members and friends through their annual pledges to the church's** operating budget. From time to time, a fee may be charged for a specific activity or event.

While there are no specific Religious Education fees for participation in the Sunday morning Religious Education program, it is the expectation that parents and family members of participating children and youth will support their congregation, to the best of their ability, through an annual pledge to Eliot Chapel.

For more information about annual pledges, please contact  
Eliot Administrator Camille Novak at [admin@eliotchapel.org](mailto:admin@eliotchapel.org).



## Getting Involved

Volunteers are a vital component to the Religious Education (RE) program. Parents and family members are expected to actively support the program by providing volunteer service in order to **ensure the program's continued strength and success**. It takes over 50 volunteer teachers and advisors each year to teach the Sunday morning classes alone.

Teaching is a terrific way to meet other individuals in the church community, explore a variety of faith traditions and practices, enhance your own faith development and beliefs, and put values such as love and service into action.

In addition to teaching, there are a variety of other ways to get involved in the program. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Substitute teaching
- Nursery volunteer
- Assisting with special fellowship events
- Carpool driver for youth events
- Greeting on Sunday
- Assisting the chalice lighter on Sunday

For a more complete list of ways to get involved, please contact Scott Stewart or Christie Lee



### Family Ambassadors & Greeters

Family Ambassadors are needed to welcome people to the program and help everyone feel at home. Greeting is a terrific way to provide hospitality and extend a welcome to others at church.



### Chalice Lighting

Children in 1st through 5th grade may participate in worship by lighting the Sanctuary chalice at the beginning of the Sunday services.

To sign up or learn more about these opportunities, please contact Assistant Director of Religious Education Christie Lee at [christie@eliotchapel.org](mailto:christie@eliotchapel.org).

## Getting Involved

### Chalice Choir for Children

The Chalice Choir is for children in 1st through 5th grades. The choir meets most Sundays between services (10:35-10:55). If you have any questions or would like to sign your child up, please contact Music Director Jan Chamberlin at [music@eliotchapel.org](mailto:music@eliotchapel.org)



## Social Justice in Action at Eliot Chapel

There are many ways for children, youth, and adults of all ages to get involved in social action and community service at Eliot Chapel.

For information about current and future opportunities, contact us at [socialjustice@eliotchapel.org](mailto:socialjustice@eliotchapel.org).



### The Eliot Chapel Children's Library

is located on the north side of Adams Hall behind the Guest Center. This cozy area is a perfect space for children of all ages to find a good book about a variety of **topics. The Children's Library is also a terrific resource** for Religious Education teachers and parents. Feel free to stop by, browse, and check out your next read.



# Safety & Supervision

## A Safe Community

Keeping children, youth, and adults safe is a high priority at Eliot Chapel. In order to provide as safe an environment as possible, the following policies are in effect at all times:

- All staff and volunteer teachers who are 18 years of age or older undergo a background check through the state of Missouri.
- At least two volunteers must be present at all activities involving children and/or youth.
- Copies of the current Eliot Chapel Safe Congregation Policy are available outside the Religious Education Office, in the Guest Center in Adams Hall, or on the Eliot Chapel website at: [www.eliotchapel.org/re\\_procedures](http://www.eliotchapel.org/re_procedures).



## Supervision

Volunteer teachers do not arrive until 10 minutes prior to service/class times. We ask that children are actively supervised by their parents or family members when they are not in class. Children should not be left unattended at any time.



## Playground Use

Outdoor play is available on the playground for younger children. If you utilize the playground, please keep in mind that the space is maintained by the Eliot Chapel Nursery School and is designed primarily for children age six and younger. Parents or family members should supervise any playground usage before or after Religious Education classes.



100 South Taylor Avenue  
Kirkwood, MO 63122  
314-821-0911

[www.eliotchapel.org](http://www.eliotchapel.org)